SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (MONGHYR): Sir, Zero hour should have been given at least one an hour's time:

MR. CHAIRMAN: There shall be a Zero Hour tomorrow. Mandalji, you speak everyday.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bihar will not get chance to speak just now. Discussion is going on under rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

14.14 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up Matters Under Rule 377. Shri Hansraj Ahir.

(i) Need to Open G.P.O. in Gadachiroli District, Maharashtra for better Postal Services

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman Sir, Garhchiroli district in Maharashtra is a backward and tribal dominated area. Chandrapur was divided in 1982 and a separate district was created to accelerate the developmental works. But the new district has not been provided with a Head Post-Office till date. Postal services of this district is being carried out by the Head-Post Office, Chandrapur. There is totally mismanagement due to this in the Postal Services here, and people are facing difficulties due to lack of Postal services. The delivery of latters in inaccessible areas is a general problem here. As a result many unemployed and other people do not get important informations on time. It is urgently required to provide postal services properly in this naxalite affected area in order to bring it in the main stream of development.

Hence, I request the Government of India to open post offices in the inaccessible areas and a Head Post Office at the district level.

(ii) Need to Set up Mineral orebased Industries in Balaghat District, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT (BALAGHAT): Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh is a no-industry district. Mangnese and Copper is abundently available in the district. Besides, good quality of minerals like Granite, lime stone, Donamite and Teak wood as well as Bamboo is also available in abundance. Even then there is no industry here, resulting in unemployment and people's large scale migration in search of employment to other areas which creates an imbalance in the development in the country. Due to availability of raw materials, Paper mills and Sugar mills and other mineral based industries can be established here.

I request Central Government to conduct a survey in this area and by establishing industries with the assistance of Centre and State Governments industries should be set up help in the development of this backward area.

(iii) Need to Review Ban Imposed on Export and Free Movement of Potatoes Within the Country

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (CONTAI): Sir, the potato production this year in West Bengal has been of record high touching the quantity of about seventy million tonnes. The existing cold storage capaicity in the State is not in a position to accommodate even half of the total producton. Being unable to preserve their produce, the farmers are being compelled to sell potatoes at sixty to sixty-five paise per kilogram in the market which is far less than the actual production cost. The State Government has been put to a very hard situation. It cannot also resort to purchase by paying remunerative price for distress sales of potatoes due to lack of storage capacity. Further, the Central Government has put ban on the export and movement of potatoes from West Bengal to other States. The neighbouring country, Bangladesh is willing to purchase potatoes from our country. so, the lifting of the ban on export to other countries and movement to other States of our country, of potatoes grown in West Bengal will immensely facilitate the producers to get some relief.

I urge upon the Central Government to review urgently all the aspects of export and free movement of potatoes within the country and lift the ban on export of potatoes to protect the interests of potato-growers of West Bengal.

(iv) Need to Clear Backlog of Telephone Connections in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (NAGERCOIL): Sir, the telephone exchanges of Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, namely Nagercoil, Painkulam, Karungal, Neyyoor, Kollencode, Arumanai, Kulashekaram and Thuckalay have long-pending waiting lists. A ten-thousand line new technology system is sanctioned by the Department of Telecommunications for Nagercoil, the headquarters of Kanyakumari district. But, so far, the work has not started. Thus, naturally the waiting list has largely increased. Though it was reported by the telecom authorities that new technology equipments and Remote Switching Unit (RSU) would be provided, they are not implemented because of the absence of optic fibre and microwave medium linkage between the exchanges. It is due to the delay in allocation of funds and materials. The Department of Telecommunications has also announced to make arrangements for the expansion of Painkulam and Neyyoor exchanges. But, sor far, no follow-up action has been taken.

So, I urge upon the Government to pass immediate orders for the expansion of the Nagercoil, Painkulam, Karungal, Neyyoor, Kollencode, Arumanai, Kulashekaram and Thuckalay exchanges in Kanyakumari district to clear up the long waiting lists by allocating funds to provide new technology and other equipments.

(v) Need for Immediate Gauge Conversion Work of Makum-Dangori Section in Assam

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): The